



ROBERT G. CASSILLY

Harford County Executive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Harford County Executive Cassilly Invites Citizen Input on FY25 Budget; Comment Period Open Now for January 23 Town Hall Meeting

BEL AIR, Md., (Jan. 4, 2024) – County Executive Bob Cassilly is offering opportunities in January for citizens to provide input on Harford’s budget for the next fiscal year.

Public comment is welcome by email and U.S. Mail starting now through the end of the month.

In addition, a town hall meeting for in-person comments is planned at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23 in Darlington Hall, room 202, on the campus of Harford Community College in Bel Air. The meeting will include in-person testimony, a public reading of some emails received before and during the meeting, and opportunities for citizens to call in comments through a dedicated phone line. The town hall will be broadcast on HarfordTV and stream live on the county website.

“I know that families are busy, and it isn’t always easy to get to a meeting,” County Executive Cassilly said. “These options for public comment allow citizens to share their county budget priorities in whatever way is best for them. Our main goal is to help the public provide input on the budget that’s funded by their tax dollars.”

Contact information is as follows:

Email: iGovHarford@harfordcountymd.gov

U.S. Mail: Harford County Executive Bob Cassilly, 220 S. Main St., Bel Air, Md. 21014

Phone: 443-412-2700 (dedicated phone line activated only during the live event)

At 6 p.m. on January 23, citizens can also watch the live event from the county Web page www.harfordcountymd.gov/BudgetTownHall.

The budget town hall meeting will begin with a brief review of the budget process.

By law, the county executive proposes a budget each April to fund county operations and capital programs for the upcoming fiscal year that begins on July 1st. The county executive's recommended budget, which is based on revenue projections, is subject to final approval by the Harford County Council.

Once the county executive sets operating funding levels, the council may not add funding to any area of the budget except for the public school system. If the council adds funding for the schools, it can only add up to the amount requested by the school board, and only by taking those funds from another area of the county budget or by raising revenue.

The primary source of county revenue is local property and income taxes paid by county citizens.

In addition to the public school system, several other outside agencies depend, in full or in part, on county funding for their operating and capital budgets. These agencies include the sheriff's office, community college, public library, and health department. It is important to note that once county funding for outside agencies is approved by the County Council, budgeting decisions within each agency are determined by that agency's leadership, based on revenue from all sources.

For information about the current, FY 2024 county budget, please visit:
<http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/1531/Budget-and-Management-Research>.

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